

Worley, Ray

From: Deitz, Rachel
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2014 3:40 PM
To: Worley, Ray
Cc: Hull, George
Subject: Fw: Underground Storage Tanks / WSJ

Here is the original email to the reporter.

From: Deitz, Rachel
Sent: Monday, August 11, 2014 9:22 AM
To: Kamp, Jon
Subject: RE: Underground Storage Tanks / WSJ

Hello Jon,
Please attribute the following to an EPA spokesperson. Thanks!

In 1984, Congress directed EPA to develop and implement a regulatory program for underground storage tank (UST) systems. The federal underground storage tank regulations require owners and operators pay for cleaning up releases from their UST systems. In 1986, Congress created the Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Trust Fund, which is financed by a 0.1 cent federal tax on each gallon of motor fuel sold in the United States. EPA and states use LUST Trust Fund money to oversee cleanups by responsible parties; enforce cleanups by recalcitrant parties; and pay for cleanups at sites where the owner or operator is unknown, unwilling, or unable to respond, or which require emergency action.

As of September 2011, the balance in the fund was approximately \$3.5 billion. In fiscal year 2012, Congress transferred \$2.4 billion of the LUST Trust Fund to the Department of Transportation's Highway Trust Fund. As of September 2013, the balance in the LUST Trust Fund was approximately \$1.33 billion. See EPA's LUST Trust Fund facts <http://www.epa.gov/oust/ltffacts.htm>.

As of March 2014, there were approximately 575,000 active underground storage tanks at 212,000 facilities that are covered by the UST regulations. See EPA's UST program facts <http://www.epa.gov/oust/pubs/ustfacts.pdf>. Underground storage tanks are located in every community: at gas stations and other non-retail facilities (such as school bus fueling facilities, police and fire stations, marinas, taxi fleet facilities, and postal service and other delivery facilities). Even a small amount of petroleum released from underground storage tanks can contaminate groundwater, which is a source of drinking water for approximately 50 percent of citizens in the United States.

As of March 2014, 517,317 releases have been confirmed and 441,648 cleanups have been completed. This means 75,669 releases remain to be cleaned up. In addition, new releases are discovered each year, which add to the number of sites needing to be cleaned up. In fiscal year 2013 over 6,000 new releases were confirmed. See EPA's UST performance measures <http://www.epa.gov/oust/cat/camarchv.htm>.

EPA works with our state, territorial, tribal, and industry partners to keep our nation's groundwater and land safe from leaks of petroleum from underground storage tanks. Each year, EPA gives grants to states and tribes totaling more than 85 percent of the LUST Trust Fund money Congress appropriated. States and tribes use the grant money to implement their UST programs.

Rachel Deitz

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From: Kamp, Jon [mailto:Jon.Kamp@wsj.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 12:08 PM
To: Deitz, Rachel
Subject: Underground Storage Tanks / WSJ

Hi Rachel. I'm a reporter with the WSJ. I cover infrastructure on occasion and I was interested in the ramifications of taking money from the Underground Storage Tank funding to help cover the gap in highway trust fund money, if I understand the math correctly.

I wanted to look into this a bit more and was wondering if there's a good report you can point me to that gives the most-up-to-date-possible scope of "LUST" funding, the number of leaking tanks out there, and the implications - if any - of shifting money from LUST to other areas. I'm also curious if there is history here and this money has been moved around before.

I'm officially off this week (you may get an out-of-office note on reply), but checking emails frequently and available here and there if there's a chance to chat with an expert on this. In the least, maybe we can get the ball rolling with some basic stats/data and see where it leads.

Thanks so much,

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